

## CH 14

Garrett

He'd strolled into his oce and sat down at his desk. Phase one started with his payback against Damien Blackwell. Tomorrow morning the company photos would be in the society pages of the papers, and not just from this morning's gift giving, but tonight's Christmas party as well.

Miss Greenbay had been in attendance in that conference room upstairs and would be again this evening in his company foyer. She was actually the one that they used for this every year. This year she was getting an added bonus to play out over the next week.

Harmony had seen this morning's posting about Damien, he'd made sure Clayton had mentioned it when calling her, to pique her interest and have her check it. Today was just day one. His goal today was just to have that boy seen buying that ring which he'd done weeks ago.

While he was still dating Harmony, that new girlfriend of his, Chloe, was going to go crazy, she'd either be super excited that it was for her, or she'd been really ticked off because she knew it was for Harmony. He wondered how Chloe was handling the news.

Wondered if she'd known that Damien had bought Harmony a ring, and wanted to marry her. That she was always only ever going to be a mistress and not his wife.

The background check on that girl had come through. She'd been in Damien's social circle for a very long time, since childhood. She was always seen with him and Harmony, looked to be friends with both of them, only to betray Harmony.

From all the digging on his part, Racheal's part, overnight they'd found out that ring was worth quite a bit. Racheal had even known about it weeks ago, approached the family for a scoop and been paid hush money for it to remain a surprise for the intended bride to be. Who she knew was going to be Harmony Preston.

Had photos of the ring already because the scoop was to be hers come Boxing Day she was to release the news of the happy couple's engagement. Oh, life was too sweet sometimes. She'd only been too happy to help him after seeing the footage of Damien in the nightclub with Chloe.

Though seeing that engagement ring himself on Racheal's camera, he didn't think that it was to Harmony's taste at all; it was more of a wealthy statement piece on Damien's part, showing off his family money, it was large and impressive for those who liked that kind of thing.

But everything he'd seen Harmony wear was small and understated. He couldn't imagine her wearing a big ashy diamond ring like the one that was now splashed all over the society pages of the newspaper.

That article read 'Damien Blackwell seen to be buying an engagement ring.' and under that 'is Damien Blackwell, heir to Blackwell Industries looking to get engaged this Christmas?' And there had been a picture of him standing smiling in a suit, and then next to that a photo of the ring, and then the photo's Racheal herself had snapped that last week of November of Damien in the jewellery store, looking at the very ring smiling himself as he did so.

Garrett had smiled when he'd seen the article, and now he was just sitting back to see what the boy did about it. Or what his father would make of it even. Considering there was a ten-day gap between those two dates of purchase and that night at the triple moon club, it would be considered it was purchased for Harmony.

He looked at her sitting at her desk, smiling as she worked. She was still wearing that Santa hat he'd placed on her head this morning. It tinkled as she moved about out there. Her annoyance and likely pain at seeing that engagement ring in the paper and the date stamp on it was gone, he thought.

He was helping her to move on past that boy and he knew it. His eyes moved over her as she stood up and put a hand on her lower abdomen, rubbed at it, and then she was walking away from her desk, a frown on her lovely face. Looked to be in pain.

He frowned at that thought, then wondered if it was more likely she was hungry. He'd brought her into the oce early, and maybe she'd not had breakfast. He stood and walked to his oce door to see where she was going and saw her head past the staff cafeteria and towards the women's bathroom. She still had her hand on her abdomen.

He frowned at that, it was likely she had pain, he thought, then realised he was looking at a human woman. He had no idea about her ovulation cycle. She could just be having period pain, not something she-wolves got, but human women did. He shook it off and returned to his oce.

His mother strolled in an hour later and handed him a suit bag, "Your party wear." she smiled at him.

"What colour, he asked."

"Red and black, the boys are in red and white, just to make the slight differentiation is all." she smiled at him.

His mother loved this time of the year, had been human until she was 24 years old, then had met his father and been scented out as his human mate, though it still took him six months to bring her in to the pack and claim her ocially. He was 15 years older than his mother was, the age gap had bothered her at just 24 and his dad 39 at the time.

There had been a lot of talk and her family had not been overly happy about his father wanting to date their 24-year-old daughter. Trouble had brewed in more ways than one, but his father wasn't willing to give up on his mother, loved her and wanted no other for his mate. So had won her over and her family too.

He'd shown he cared by the patience he'd had with her and her family and the way he'd dealt with the scandal in the papers around their relationship. Never had he faltered even once in the defence of Deidre. Protected her and loved her always. Though her parents had now passed away, they had gotten to see how happy their daughter was with his father.

Gotten to meet all three of their grandchildren, Garrett had come along just ve months after their human wedding and shocked her parents completely. They'd had to tell a small lie about her being pregnant at the wedding already, told them she'd been four months along already.

That had disappointed her parents, that she'd lied to them about not sleeping with his father prior to them agreeing it was alright for their daughter to date him, but they'd gotten over it in the end, and had a grandson to spoil.

His mother had grown up human with lots of happy holiday memories with her family, and she wanted that for all the pack's children as well. So Christmas was a big deal and the streets of the pack were decorated on the 1st of December and not pulled down until after the New Year.

He'd also grown up being spoiled at Christmas time, as had his two younger sisters, and they'd all been relayed tales of Jolly old Saint Nick. Read Christmas stories and learned to sing Christmas Carols and do gift giving.

Garrett himself had happy fun memories of this time of year, of the giant Christmas tree his father would erect inside the packhouse foyer for all the pack's children. They even had an elder that was willing to dress up as Santa Clause and have photos taken with the pack's children.

He saw Harmony return to her desk as his mother left the oce. She'd been the only person not in Christmas attire this evening, and then he realised that there was no Christmas present on her desk. All those gifts had been purchased weeks ago, she'd not actually gotten one.

He had her clear his schedule that afternoon, he would go out shopping to get her something. His eyes moved to the suit he would be wearing, and he got up and looked at it. Every department was given a theme. This year everyone on the 12th oor had to been told snowakes was their theme, and he knew it was because of the tree topper that was going up this year.

Garrett unzipped the bag that hung on the hook on the wall, and looked at the shirt. He smiled at it, he did look good in red. Zipped it back up and headed out to go shopping. Wyatt was tagging along with him, and chuckled at him "You know boss, I think you like the girl, seem to be a bit on the smitten side." He'd smirked at him a little.

"She got left out, Wyatt, that is all. I just realised it when mother brought in my suit was all." he waved it off, he also knew where his mother liked to purchase all the attire for these events. So that was an easy x.

He strolled around in the store looking at the many Christmas-styled dresses and stopped at a lovely black and red dress. It had long sleeves and was tted to the waist, had a simple but pretty ribbon waist band with a bow on the side, and a owing skirt that fell below the knee. It matched his shirt perfectly. He reached out and touched it with a smile, knew it was the right one. "I'll take this one," he told the girl trailing them.

"In what size?" she asked him.

Wyatt snorted full amused "He doesn't know."

Wyatt was not wrong, he'd not thought that far ahead, but Harmony was only petite, and he was certain his mother would know the answer to that question. He placed a call to her and asked that very question. She was quiet for a good ten seconds before giving him a dress size and then had huffed at him "I didn't get her attire," sounded a bit disappointed in herself "Is new and..."

"I'll pick something up, I'm out of the oce mother." He told her and relayed the dress size to the girl.

He'd been strolling along casually with Wyatt when the man stopped at a jewellery store to look at items for his Mate, and Garrett saw in the Christmas window display a pretty white gold snowake with blue cubic zirconia stones, and he smiled to himself. Garrett thought she'd like it and strolled in there to purchase it, it could be the gift she'd not gotten this morning.

He placed it in the box with her dress after writing a simple card that came with the box. It had a picture of a gold swirling ribbon that was designed to look like a Christmas tree. He chuckled at his own words, she'd played with him this morning, and he'd liked that. She showed him she had a cheeky side.

Garrett leaned on the glass counter next to where Wyatt was trying to make a decision on which bracelet to buy his Mate, debating with himself which she would prefer. Garrett tormented that man about it to hinder him even further.

"Don't you know what she'd prefer?", "Come on Wyatt, don't you pay attention to what your wife tells you?" the girl behind the counter bit her lip and tried not to laugh at Garrett's fully amused expression.

Then he clucked his tongue and shook his head when Wyatt nally touched a bracelet and said "This one" to the girl behind the counter. Wyatt looked right at him at the sound he'd made, he knew it sounded as though it was 'that's not the right one.' and Wyatt halted the girl and went back to umming and aahing.

The woman looked at him, and he winked at her, and she chuckled a little. It was so easy to toy with his Beta when he was trying to buy the perfect gift for his Mate. He was paranoid about never getting her the right thing, when she loved everything, he'd ever bought her.

But it only took one cluck of his tongue, or anyone's that was out shopping with him, to have Wyatt second guessing himself. Amused not only Garrett but his entire unit as well.